

**BACK TO NORMAL**  
Cooler today with intervals of sun and clouds; clear and cold tonight.  
Forecast, B6

# The Providence Journal

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AP / SRDJAN ILIC

Ethnic Serbs living in Mitrovica, Kosovo, yesterday display posters of Serbian ultra-nationalist leader Tomislav Nikolic as they protest the decision by the province's Albanian majority to declare its independence.

## Kosovo: Choosing sides

### U.S., Russia at odds over issue of independence

BY NICHOLAS KULISH  
and C.J. CHIVERS  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN — Kosovo won the recognition of the United States and its biggest Western European allies yesterday, while earning rebukes and rejections from Serbia, Russia and a disparate mix of states the world over who face their own separatist movements at home.

One day after the tiny Balkan province declared its independence, the world had its chance to choose sides. While some countries had made their decisions months in advance, that did not lessen the drama of whether a newly birthed nation would be welcomed into the fold or rejected.

Major European powers, including France, Germany and Britain, along with the United States, officially recognized Kosovo, even as officials took pains to point out that it should not



AP / SETH WENIG

The United Nations Security Council meets yesterday in New York to discuss the province's future status. The UN has had administrative control of Kosovo since the 1999 war.

serve as an invitation or precedent for other groups hoping to declare independence. That is because one of the biggest unknowns remains whether Kosovo's declaration could rekindle conflicts elsewhere, including in ethnically divided Bosnia.

As a result, the reverberations were felt from Russian-backed enclaves in Georgia to the Taiwan Strait. Spain, a member of the European Union and among the countries with soldiers in the NATO force in Kosovo, refused its recognition.

In a letter to Kosovo's president, Fatmir Sejdiu, President Bush wrote: "On behalf of the American people, I hereby recognize Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state. I congratulate you and Kosovo's citizens for having taken this important step in your democratic and national

SEE KOSOVO, A4

The volunteers "had big smiles on their faces. Some had tears in their eyes."

SCOTT AVEDISIAN  
Warwick mayor

## Extreme excitement at family's house in Warwick

Doreen and Kenny Silva and their seven children are away while their house is being razed and rebuilt as part of an ABC reality show.

BY BRYAN ROURKE  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Yesterday, a man with a bullhorn ordered the Silva family out of their Warwick home. Leave. Go away for a week, he said. See Disney World.

When you're gone, a few hundred people will demolish your house. Have a nice trip.

Not to worry, the throng will build the Silvas a new house, and do it all before they return with their tans and their Mickey Mouse hats.

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition has come to Rhode Island. It's the first visit to the state in the four-year history



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

This house at 106 Yucatan Drive is the object of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

SEE HOUSE, A6

## Pension cut could prompt judges' flight, Bucci warns

District Court Judge Elaine T. Bucci, of the Rhode Island Trial Judges Association, says Governor Carcieri's plan could push some 23 judges to retire.

BY EDWARD FITZPATRICK  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — About a third of the state's judges will retire all at once if the legislature adopts Governor Carcieri's proposal to slash judicial pensions by the amount of Social Security benefits they're due to receive, the head of a state judges' association predicts.

By the end of the current fiscal year, 23 of the state's 59 judges will be eligible to retire with pensions equal to either 75 percent or

100 percent of full pay, a courts spokesman said.

And the "vast majority, if not all," of those 23 judges will retire rather than lose annual Social Security payments estimated to be at least \$20,000 per year, said District Court Judge Elaine T. Bucci, president of the Rhode Island Trial Judges Association. She said she hasn't spoken to each judge, but she said, "Why wouldn't they retire? That's a big number."

SEE JUDGES, A6

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Your turn: In a tight budget year, would you spend tax money to maintain judicial pensions at current levels? To respond, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

## War over words as Democrats clash over speech

On the eve of contests in Wisconsin and Hawaii, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's camp accuses Sen. Barack Obama of lifting lines from Massachusetts Governor Patrick.

BY MATTHEW MOSK  
and PETER SLEVIN  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Aides to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton accused Sen. Barack Obama yesterday of plagiarizing portions of a recent

speech and continued to question his vows to reform the campaign finance system as Clinton sought to drive home the idea that her Democratic rival's presidential bid is built on style more than substance.

The two-pronged attack came as Clinton attempts to slow Obama's momentum in today's contests in Wisconsin — which neighbors his home state of Illinois — and Hawaii, where he was born.

The race in Wisconsin, where Clinton dug in over the weekend in an effort to break a string of eight straight primary and caucus defeats, has turned increasingly negative. Just days earlier, aides to the New York senator accused Obama of breaking his pledge to

SEE CAMPAIGN, A7

## Allegations of murder aired at Diana inquest

The father of the man who died with the princess sketches a wide-ranging conspiracy that includes Prince Philip and his son, Prince Charles.

BY JOHN F. BURNS  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — Mohammed al-Fayed waited more than 10 years for the day in open court where he could lay out his theory of high-level conspiracy in the deaths of Princess Diana and his son Dodi, her lover when both died in a Paris car crash in August 1997.

When the moment came yesterday in the fifth month of the long-delayed inquest into

their deaths, Fayed, the 75-year-old owner of the Harrod's department store, outdid himself with sensational new twists to his allegations that Britain's royal family was behind the crash.

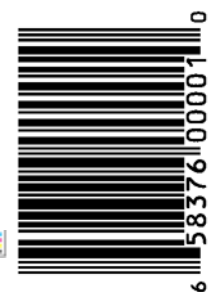
In a written statement he read before the packed benches of Room 73 in the Royal

Courts of Justice, and under questioning, Fayed repeated his central claim: what caused the high-speed impact with a pillar in the Pont d'Alma tunnel beside

SEE DIANA, A4



DIANA



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### JFK REDISCOVERED

Long-hidden items and documents related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, including a purported transcript between Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby, are revealed for the first time after spending nearly two decades locked inside a courthouse safe in Dallas. **A2**

### PAKISTAN VOTERS SPURN MUSHARRAF

Early unofficial returns show political parties opposed to President Pervez Musharraf doing well in Pakistan's parliamentary elections. **A2**

### ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS

Everything you ever wanted to know about why we need leap years to keep the calendar on track. **F1**



### URI FALLS TO XAVIER

Parfait Bitee, left, scores a career high 25 points and Will Daniels pours in another 23 for the Rams, but it's still not enough as URI falls to Xavier, 81-77. **C1**